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A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF FLIGHTLESS DUCK FROM  
CAMPBELL ISLAND.

BY J. H. FLEMING.

THE duck inhabiting Campbell Island, one of the subantarctic islands of the New Zealand region, appears to differ both in genus, and species from *Nesonetta aucklandica* of the Auckland Islands. The genus may be known as:

***XENONETTA***, gen. nov.

Bill narrow, not broad as in *Nesonetta*; culmen line, and sides of the maxilla nearly straight; lamellae and maxillary flap poorly developed; nail shorter and rounder than in *Nesonetta*; nasal openings small and oval. Mandible narrow, the gnathidia compressed at base.

Wings short, the shafts weak; tail wedge-shaped, the shafts stiff. Tarsi reticulate.<sup>1</sup>

The species may be known as:

***XENONETTA NESIOTIS***, sp. nov.

Type, No. 35406, Fleming Coll. ♂, Campbell Island, 1886, Capt. Fairchild. Description of type,—Head and neck sepia, darker on the hind neck; back and upper tail-coverts sepia, with faint edgings of warm sepia, this colour predominant on the under tail-coverts.

Under parts more Saccardo's umber than sepia, and without spots or vermiculations; lower breast and abdomen with faint edgings of light buff.

Wings, dark sepia with no visible speculum, the primaries dark sepia on outer web and edged with sepia, the inner webs lighter; the shafts

<sup>1</sup>I hesitate to use this as a generic character, but the scales are clearly reticulate in this specimen.



warm umber. Under wing coverts, umber with light buff edgings, producing a mottled effect; axillars light buff with two centre spots of sepia.

Tail feathers dark sepia with indistinct sepia edgings, the tail much shortened by wear, the shafts very stiff.

Bill in dried skin, blackish brown, a large triangular patch<sup>2</sup> of cinnamon buff extending from the base of the maxilla to a line drawn in front of the nostrils; the nail umber.

Tarsi and toes in dried skin, blackish brown with traces of cinnamon buff on the edges of the toes, the webs blackish brown. Length in dried skin, 348., culmen 35., wing 133., tail much worn, 64., tarsus 30., middle toe and claw 46.

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Compared with *Elasmonetta chlorotis* of New Zealand, and *Nesonetta aucklandica* of the Auckland Islands, *Xenonetta nesiotis* differs in its narrow bill, reticulate tarsus, and almost uniform colouration. Like *Nesonetta* it is flightless, or nearly so. The worn condition of the tail feathers and stiffness of the shafts, would suggest the use of the tail as a support in climbing.

The wings are not symmetrical, though showing no signs of moult, the second primary is the longest in the right wing, and the third and fourth are equal and longest in the left wing; this irregularity in the wing formula has been dealt with in the case of *Nesonetta aucklandica* by Dr. Hans Gadow in *Novitates Zoologicae*, ix, 1902, page 170.

I am indebted to Capt. T. E. Donne, C.M.G., for the history of the type, it was taken on Campbell Island by Capt. Fairchild of the government ship *Stella* on his 1886 cruise to "The Islands" probably in January or February. On the return of Capt. Fairchild to Wellington, the bird was given to Capt. Donne who at once sent it to Mr. E. Jennings of Dunedin to be preserved.

Capt. Donne has been good enough to go back through his correspondence and writes "I found a type-written copy of my letter of instructions to Jennings, written at Wellington, and sent to him at Dunedin, this clearly stated that the *Nesonetta* came from Campbell Island, his account for mounting it was also attached, and read "Flightless duck from Campbell Island". Jennings was meticulously careful in regard to marking localities on specimens that he preserved or mounted". On the bottom of the stand is written, "Flightless Duck, Campbell Island, 1886, ♂". The great Austrian naturalist Andreas Reischek, was the guest of Capt. Fairchild on the *Stella* during the annual cruise to "The Islands" in 1888, he landed on Campbell Island on January

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<sup>2</sup>Similar but less in area to that of *Anas versicolor versicolor*.





28th, and writes "I was informed that the tui, and a wingless duck inhabited the island, but I did not see any".<sup>3</sup>

I have been greatly assisted by Mr. W. F. H. Rosenberg who packed and forwarded the bird to me; and I have to thank Mr. W. E. Clyde Todd of the Carnegie Museum for the loan of comparative material.

Measurements are in millimeters, the colors from Ridgway's Color Standards, 1912.

TABLE OF MEASUREMENTS (in Millimeters)

Collection	No.	Sex from labels		Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Culmen
			<i>Elasmonetta chlorotis</i>				
Carnegie Mus.	24491	♂ ad.	Otago, New Zealand, 1892	198	100	38	42
Carnegie Mus.	24492	♀ ad.	Manawatu, New Zealand, 1892	184	77 <sup>4</sup>	36	43
			<i>Nesonetta aucklandica</i>				
Fleming Coll.	3856	♂ ad.	Auckland Islands	143	97	32	40
Fleming Coll.	3857	♀ ad.	Auckland Islands	127	77	30	36
			<i>Xenonetta nesiotis</i>				
Fleming Coll.	35406	♂ ad.	Campbell Island, 1886	133	64 <sup>4</sup>	30	35

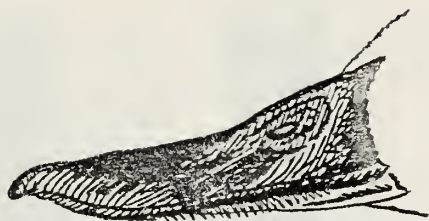
Collectors: The Carnegie Museum birds are from Sir Walter Buller's last collection; the Auckland Island birds would appear to have been labelled by S. Dannefærd; the type of *Xenonetta* was collected by Capt. J. Fairchild.

Plates.—The figures marked, *a*, *b*, *c*, on the plates represent the males of the three genera as given in the table of measurements, *b*, being the type of *Xenonetta*; the figures are of the natural size. When making the drawings of the bills, Mr. T. M. Shortt noticed a series of parallel lines hatched on the under side of the nail, visible under magnification, but well marked in *Xenonetta*, less so in *Nesonetta*, and not present in *Elasmonetta*; this hatching is visible in a downey young of *Anas discors*, and should be looked for in the young of other ducks.

<sup>3</sup>Trans. and Proc. of the New Zealand Inst, 1881, vol. xxi, p. 385.

<sup>4</sup>Worn.





a.



b.



c.

- a. *Elasmonetta*
- b. *Xenonetta*
- c. *Nesonetta*

PLATE I.





a.



b.



c.



a.



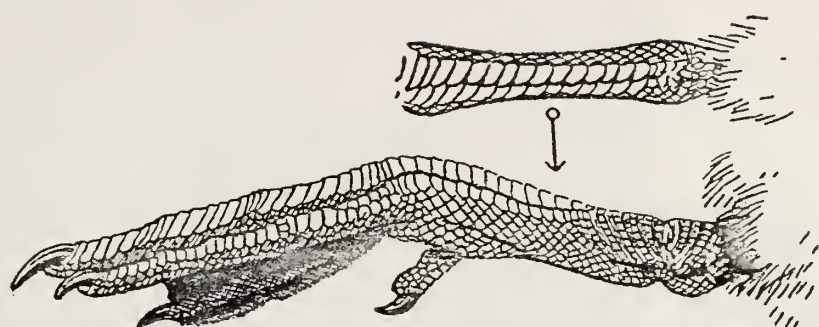
b.



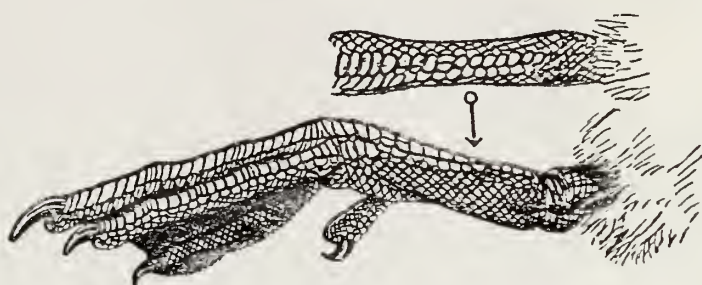
c.

- a. *Elasmonetta*
- b. *Xenonetta*
- c. *Nesonetta*





a.



b.



c.

- a. *Elasmonetta*
- b. *Xenonetta*
- c. *Nesonetta*







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